

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201**

**Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services
Minutes of the Meeting
September 1, 2005
8:30 a.m.**

Commission Members Present

Mr. Dan Ravenel, Chair
Dr. Bettie Horne
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Dr. Mick Zais
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller

Staff Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk	Jocelyn Ross
Arlene Criswell	Sandra Rhyne
Gary Glenn	Laverne Sanders
Deborah Henning	Ms. Cindy Taylor
Sherry Hubbard	Karen Wham
Rae McPherson	Frank Myers
Yolanda Hudson	Julie Carullo
	Lorinda Copeland

Mr. Dan Ravenel, Chairman, called the meeting to order. The Chairman asked for any corrections and approval of the minutes. Dr. Bettie Horne motioned to accept the minutes and the motion was second by Ms. Rosemary Byerly. The motion was carried to approve the minutes as written.

Consideration of State Scholarship and Grant

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk explained the APA process to Committee members. She said once the process is completed the public can provide any comments within ten days of the public hearing scheduled for December 1. She added that a public meeting is typically held at the Commission meeting.

Military Mobilization - Committee members asked about language strongly encouraging institutions to refund students who are mobilized and why that language is in the regulations. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that if a student leaves during the middle of the semester it presents a financial problem for the veteran. She said the best approach would be to forgive the Scholarship. Mr. Ravenel expressed concerns about South University being a for profit institution. Mr. Ravenel asked how we would get the word out about the new benefit to dependents of military for the LIFE Scholarship. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that we could possibly contact the VA Officers in each county in South Carolina.

Uniform Grading Scale - Dr. Woodfaulk said language is being added for South Carolina resident students attending out of state high schools, for example boarding schools. She said that CHE is working with the State Department of Education on this issue.

Mr. Ravenel questioned the economic impact of students retaining LIFE with the new LIFE GPA and he added that some may also lose the scholarship. Ms. Cindy Mosteller asked if AP credits are increased in the GPA like dual enrolled and how the two programs are now interacting with each other. Dr. Woodfaulk said it will include grades while dually enrolled and that D & F's will also be calculated. She said CHE went to the Legislative staff to make sure this is what the Legislators wanted to approve. Mr. Ravenel questioned if this would have economical impact of this legislation. Ms. Mosteller asked about the credit hours. Dr. Woodfaulk stated they can bank them. Dr. Horne motioned to approve. Motion approved

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, Act 162 – Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the alternative criteria will help home schooled students. Ms. Mosteller stated that she thought the 1400 was high. Sherry Hubbard explained that typically Palmetto Fellows scores an average of 1300. Dr. Woodfaulk said 1400 is mandated in Act 162. Mr. Ravenel stated that he is surprised that students can get 1400, but are not in the top percent of their class. He stated he is glad this has been amended. Mr. Ravenel motioned to approve and Ms. Byerly second the motion. Motion approved.

Dr. Horne asked about the male selective service. Dr. Woodfaulk said there is a loop hole in the regulations that would allow students to get a grant even although they did not comply with federal law. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that federal law requires that males register for selective service. Older males who did not apply for selective service can receive state funds. Dr. Woodfaulk said this loop hole needed to be closed.

Ms. Mosteller asked how many of the changes come from people in the General Assembly versus how many come from CHE. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that most of the amendments areas addressed areas where the regulations had to be changed due to the passing of state laws. She stated the Palmetto Fellows 1400 for example was not initiated by CHE. The Selective Service issue is recommended by Staff.

Dr. Horne asked about credit hours for LIFE Scholarship accepted by institution and why was it eliminated. Dr. Woodfaulk stated even if the credit hours are not accepted by an institution it will be accepted for the purpose of scholarship eligibility.

Scholarship Report

Dr. Woodfaulk said the following issues were discussed by the Committee.

- Palmetto Fellows - increase the annual maximum award by \$300.00 making it a \$7,000 scholarship. She stated, however, that they had concerns. It would cost \$1 Million. Ms. Mosteller asked if it was about 1,100 for freshman. Sherry said it is about 1,500 students.
- LIFE - Reduce minimum GPA to retain the LIFE scholarship after the freshmen year from a 3.0 to a 2.75 or 2.85. Dr. Woodfaulk said this would allow for a student who is a freshman to have an opportunity to gain the LIFE Scholarship after the freshman year. She stated the Committee recommendation was to start at a 2.75 and then let the student

earn a 3.0 after sophomore and junior year. Ms. Mosteller expressed concern about the LIFE data that indicated the number of students who did not receive the LIFE their freshmen year and that only 43% earned a 3.0 at the end of their freshmen year. She said there is no standard grading scale at higher education institutions. The Committee discussed the effect of the statistics. Dr. Woodfaulk explained the implication and the fiscal impact if the LIFE GPA was lowered. Ms. Mosteller said that the GPA concerns her and that college level GPAs do not have a level playing field as with the high schools Uniform Grading Scale.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Laverne Sanders